Network-Enabled Platforms (NEP-2) Program
Progress Report – August 31, 2011.

Project NEP54: Open Orchestra
Appendix 1: Evaluation Report

Student User Survey Responses

The Student User Survey was designed by Adam Finkelstein of McGill's Centre for Teaching and Learning Services, an expert on evaluation of interactive learning systems. He is not a member of the Open Orchestra development team. Evaluations were completed on line at the workstations located at McGill, National Arts Centre, Humber College, Banff Centre and UBC. Although users were encouraged to complete the survey immediately after trying the workstation, this was not compulsory and not all users did so. In all, 24 survey responses were received.

As mentioned in the Progress Report, these evaluations were done before installation of the touchscreens so that users saw only one page of the score and had to turn the pages using a mouse. The new touchscreens show two page and pages are turned by tapping the screen with a finger. Also, an optional automated page turning system has since been introduced that turns the pages according to pre-set timing.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I feel comfortable using technology			1	9	14
2. The system was easy to use		2	2	16	4
3. The score on the screen was large and easy to see		7	5	6	6

Comment:

The evaluations were done before installation of the new large touchscreens so that there was one page of the score and pages had to be turned using the mouse.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
4. I would have liked to have a brief tutorial on how to use the system before I began	1	2	7	13	1

Comment:

We have decided to add the tutorial.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
5. I felt that I was in control of the experience			8	11	5
6. It was easy for me to interact with the recorded orchestra	1	2	8	11	2
7. The sound quality enhanced my learning			6	8	10
8. The video quality enhanced my learning		1	7	7	9
9. I would have learned more if the orchestra and I were in the same room		1	3	11	9

Comment:
Of course it would be better to be in the same room as the orchestra. We wanted to be sure that they were answering the questions honestly.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
10. I found the experience very enjoyable			2	12	10
11. This system had a positive impact on my learning			4	13	7
12. I would use this system again				14	10

13. What would you change?

Comment:
Most of the comments had to do with seeing more than one page of the score, having a better way of turning the pages and being able to repeat a section of the score. These changes have been implemented in the latest version and with installation of the large touchscreens.

Other comments:

"I know the point is to be able to record your performances, but as a brass player I hate playing with headphones on and I think it takes a lot of practice to be able to play this way without getting tired quickly."

"Maybe implementing some type of modality to slow down or speed up the tune… Playing trombone with headphones was a bit strange…"

"Gordon [the Conductor] could look more happy."

"When singing on stage, there is a slight delay between the performer and the accompaniment (because of the orchestra playing in the pit), which is a large part of the opera experience. It would be good to be able to add a delay between the video and the playback."

"...having only the performer's part [and the piano] on the screen works, but also having the parts of your fellow performers (i.e. Don Giovanni and Zerlina) … would help out with cues if someone was in the learning process."

"Video at the beginning [of the opera with camera moving] was weird or surprising ... but once I got used to it, it was really good... it allowed me to internalize my role as a performer."

"... this is quite amazing actually…"